Visit of Indian delegation to South Africa

3079. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation has visited South Africa recently; and

(b) if so, what was the purposes of the visit stating the details of the matter discussed with the South Africa Government and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism led a tourism delegation to South Africa in the month of January, 1994.

(b) The visit was to generate closer interaction between the travel trade and the travelling public in South Africa and the Indian travel industry. It was also intended to generate confidence in India as a safe and attractive destination. The programme comprised of an India Evening' presentation jointly organised by Air India and the Department of Tourism. The audience included 450 prominent people from travel trade and hotel industry, Indian community, African National Congress and South African Government. The Minister had meetings with important dignitaries such as Dr. Nelson Mandela, President, ANC, Dr. Ranchod, Minister for Civil Aviation and Shri Van Hoven, Chairman, South African Tourism Board.

Pdojosal for upgradation of Air India

3080. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade Air India on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with steps to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether these steps will not make any structural changes within the airlines even after the repeal of the Air Corporation Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Air-India propose to take some measures to face the circumstances if an Open Sky policy of Government is implemented; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) Air India has taken steps to meet international competion by adopting a consumer oriented strategy by providing value added service to passengers. Upgradation to passenger facilities both on air and on ground, tition by adopting a consumer oriented indtction of new B-747-400 aircraft are some of the steps taken in this regard. In order to improve i's market access, Air India in going to introduce a compu er reservation system in India, jointly with Indian Airlines. New destinations like Johannesburg, Durban, Dar-E-Salam and Jakarta have been added to Air India's net work during 1993. Air India is also planning to start services to more stations subject to an agreement between the two countries. Recently, hub and spoke operations have been introduced from Amritsar, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad thereby offering access to passengers to these points both on the outward and inward journeys. The emphasis is on better passenger satisfaction.

Utilisation of Dornakal Airport in Andhra Pradesh

3081. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will draw up a plan to utilise Dornakal and other unused and under utilised airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what incentive will be extended to airlines to use such airports like Dornakal in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) National Airports Authority has 7 airports in Andhra Pradesh, out of which 3 airports, namely, Cuddapah, Donakonda and Warrangal are not being used. There is a proposal to hand over these airports to the State Government for maintenance and use as airports.

Emergency landing of Boeing 747 at Bombay

3082. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India Boeing 747 on Delhi-Paris Flight (A1-1/7) landed in Bombay in the recent past in full emergency measures, following failure of one of its engines;

(b) what was the reasons for this emergency landing inspite of all safety checks; and

(c) what measures are being taken to avoid such happenings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India Boeing 747 aircraft operatnig flight No. AI-147 from Delhi to Paris had made an emergency landing at Bombay on 27-2-94 as a result of damage to its No. 1 engine due to bird hit.

(c) Bird strike is a common aviation hazard all over the world and is difficult to prevent completely. However, International Airports Authority of India, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Administration are already engaged in minimising the bird hazard at Delhi to the extent possible.

ITDC Officials/Employees charge-sheeted due to Theft and Fraud

3083. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITDC officials/employees charge-sheeted for alleged theft, fraud, dishonesty, etc. since January 1991;

(b) the details of each case, alongwith date of charge-sheet and also the details of the charge;

(c) whether any of them has since been suspended; if so, the details of each case;

(d) whether any departmental enquiry has been ordered into any of these cases;

(e) if so, when and the stage at which each departmental enquiry is presently pending; and

(f) what steps are being taken to streamline the Vigilance department of ITDC and to minimise frauds, thefts in ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The information is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 170, Annexure No 64].

(f) The Vigilance Department of ITDC has been strengthened to detect cases and process them expeditiously.

The steps taken by ITDC to check/minimise thefts, fradus, etc. include installation of computorised cash registers billing machines) in the hotels exercising of strict supervision and control & taking disciplinary action against erring employees.

Guidelines for Operation of Airlines on non-economic routes

3084. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have issued guidelines on the 2nd March, 1994 making it mandatory for all scheduled airlines, including private airlines, to operate on non-economic routes;